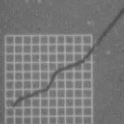
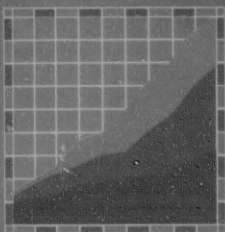


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 17 December 1992

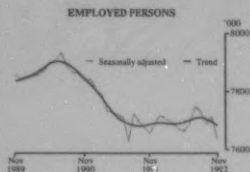
The week in statistics ...

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Full-time employment still falling

The trend estimate of full-time employment fell again in November 1992, continuing the decline observed since July 1990. However, the rate of decline is markedly slower now than at the beginning of 1992. The underlying trend in total employment is also falling following a period of increase between April and August 1992. Trend estimates of unemployment continue to increase while the trend unemployment rate was steady after increasing slightly in each of the last seven months.

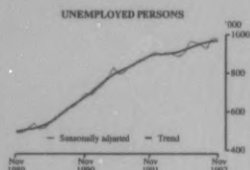


Employment

The November 1992 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,636,100, a fall of 78,400 since October. Full-time employment fell by 15,700 to 5,844,600. Male full-time employment fell by 22,100 to 3,969,700, while the number of females employed full time increased slightly to 1,874,800. Part-time employment fell by 62,600 to 1,791,600, with male and female part-time employment falling by 30,200 and 32,400 respectively.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for November was 979,900, almost unchanged since October. For males, unemployment rose by 9,300 to 611,200 with the number of males seeking full-time work increasing by 11,700. Female unemployment fell by 8,900 to 368,600, with a fall of 10,800 in the number of adult females seeking full-time work.



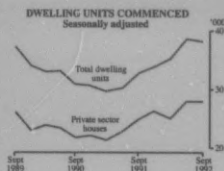
The seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate was 11.4 per cent, compared with 11.3 per cent in October. For males, the unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 12.2 per cent while for females, the rate fell slightly to 10.2 per cent.

Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate was 62.6 per cent, a fall of 0.6 percentage points since October. For males, the rate fell by 0.7 percentage points to 73.9 per cent, while for females, the rate fell by 0.6 percentage points to 51.6 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Unemploy- ment rate	Participa- tion rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total — '000 —			
1992						
June	5,856.8	1,834.4	7,691.1	963.4	11.1	63.2
July	5,891.9	1,857.3	7,749.2	959.6	11.0	63.5
August	5,861.6	1,870.0	7,731.6	947.5	10.9	63.2
September	5,862.5	1,826.0	7,688.4	927.7	10.8	62.7
October	5,860.3	1,854.2	7,714.5	979.5	11.3	63.2
November	5,844.6	1,791.6	7,636.1	979.9	11.4	62.6



Housing commencements down slightly but remain strong

In seasonally adjusted terms, the estimated number of dwelling units commenced in September quarter 1992 (38,124) was 1.2 per cent lower than the June quarter estimate of 38,568 (the highest figure in three years) but still 16.6 per cent higher than September quarter 1991.

Private sector house commencements are estimated to have risen by 1.0 per cent to 27,328 during September quarter 1992. The movements in both these series reflect the trends evident in the monthly building approvals series in recent months.

In September quarter 1992, increases in seasonally adjusted dwelling unit commencements were recorded in the Australian Capital Territory (15.9%), Tasmania (14.6%), Queensland (6.9%), and Western Australia (1.0%); while there were falls in New South Wales (15.9%), South Australia (14.9%) and Victoria (9.4%). However, total dwelling unit commencements in September quarter 1992 were higher than September quarter 1991 in all States and Territories except South Australia.

DWELLING UNIT COMMENCEMENTS
September quarter 1992

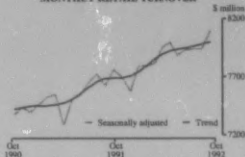
	Private sector houses		Total dwelling units	
	Number	Percentage change on previous quarter	Number	Percentage change on previous quarter
Original	28,078	3.4	39,371	1.9
Seasonally adjusted	27,328	1.0	38,124	-1.2

In original terms, the total number of dwelling units commenced in September quarter 1992 (39,371) rose by 1.9 per cent over the June quarter estimate of 38,637. An increase of 3.3 per cent in private sector commencements was largely offset by a fall of 12.5 per cent in public sector commencements.

The 11,465 dwelling units commenced in Queensland was the highest of any State and comprised nearly 30 per cent of the national total, while the 10,765 commencements in New South Wales contributed a further 27 per cent.

While total dwelling unit commencements were up 16.5 per cent in September quarter 1992 over the same period in 1991, commencements of other residential dwellings (flats, townhouses, units, etc.) increased by 29.5 per cent, much stronger than the 12.3 per cent increase in private sector house commencements.

MONTHLY RETAIL TURNOVER



Are there signs of life in retail trade?

The trend estimate of turnover for retail and selected service establishments increased by 0.2 per cent at current prices in the month of October 1992. This trend increase has been influenced by a strongish 2.0 per cent seasonally adjusted increase in October over September 1992.

This may be a sign of improvement in the monthly retail trend series but it now hinges on the November statistics. To illustrate this, if there is an increase of 1.0 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms for November, the trend estimate of recent months will strengthen to around 0.5 per cent per month. A 1.0 per cent fall in seasonally adjusted terms will see the rate of increase in the trend estimates remain about the same.

Industry trend estimates for department and general stores are now showing growth, reversing the declining trend of recent months. Grocers are showing moderate growth while the remainder of the five major industries covered by the survey: other food stores; hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs; and clothing and fabric stores, are in decline.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in October 1992 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended October 1992	12 months ended October 1992
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,470	0.4	0.5
Butchers	200	0.3	0.6
Other food stores	562	-0.1	0.3
Total food group	3,232	0.3	0.5
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	974	-0.4	0.0
Department and general stores	893	0.4	0.2
Clothing and fabrics stores	580	-1.3	-0.2
Electrical stores	439	1.0	0.3
Pharmacies	354	1.0	0.7
Newsagents	262	-0.1	0.2
Other industries	1,521	n.a.	n.a.
All industries	8,254	0.2	0.3

Western Australia is currently experiencing strong growth with the trend estimate showing an average increase of 1.2 per cent over the last three months. Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory are also showing fairly strong growth. Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania are showing weak growth while New South Wales has a declining trend.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

Monthly percentage change in State trend estimates

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Aust.
1992								
July	-0.3	0.0	0.5	-0.3	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.1
August	-0.3	0.1	0.6	-0.1	1.1	0.4	0.7	0.2
September	-0.3	0.2	0.7	0.0	1.3	0.4	0.8	0.3
October	-0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	1.2	0.2	0.8	0.2

Number of job leavers decreasing

The number of unemployed persons who were job leavers (i.e. unemployed persons who left their last full-time job voluntarily) has been falling since April 1991.

Of unemployed persons in October 1992, there were 121,600 job leavers. This represents a decrease of 23 per cent from April 1991 when the number of unemployed job leavers peaked at 158,400. The number of male job leavers has decreased by 14,100 to 69,800 since April 1991 and for females, job leavers have fallen by 22,800 to 51,700.

Job leavers accounted for 13 per cent of unemployed persons in October 1992 compared with 17 per cent in October 1991 and 19 per cent in April 1991.

These findings are among the results of the monthly Labour Force Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
('000)

October	Job leavers			Total unemployed		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
1989	54.3	48.8	103.1	243.2	214.1	457.4
1990	63.5	51.5	114.9	354.5	252.5	607.0
1991	72.1	62.3	134.4	494.5	307.1	801.6
1992	69.8	51.7	121.6	557.1	345.4	902.5

In addition to those job leavers who join the ranks of the unemployed, a significant number of job leavers withdraw from the labour force either temporarily or with no intention of looking for work again. A survey conducted by the ABS in April 1991 showed that there were 209,600 job leavers who had left the labour force in the previous twelve months. Of those, 60 per cent intended to return to the labour force.

Other features of unemployed job leavers in October 1992 included:

- ☐ 71 per cent were less than 35 years of age;
- ☐ 32 per cent of male job leavers had last worked full time for two weeks or more as labourers and related workers while 36 per cent of female job leavers had last worked full time for two weeks or more as salespersons and personal service workers; and
- ☐ 24 per cent of male job leavers and 27 per cent of female job leavers had last worked full time for two weeks or more in the wholesale and retail trade industry.



Inquiries

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- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
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- ☐ electronically

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WA (09) 323 5140
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Tas. (002) 20 5800
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All the week's releases: 9 to 15 December

General

National Statistical Systems — A Guided Tour, 1992 (1133.0; \$20.00)
— *new issue*

Statistics Weekly, 10 December 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)

Queensland Year Book, 1993 (1301.3; \$37.95)

Demography

Deaths, Tas., 1991 (3312.6; \$14.50)

Demography, ACT, 1991 (3311.8; \$16.00)

Social statistics

Crime and Safety Survey, NSW, April 1992 (4509.1; \$14.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Information Paper: Change in Base Year of Constant Price Estimates from 1984-85 to 1989-90 (5227.0; free)

Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts, June Qtr 1992 (5232.0; \$40.00)

Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Imports, October 1992 (5433.0; \$9.50)

Public Unit Trusts, Aust., September Qtr 1992 (5645.0; \$10.50)

Common Funds, Aust., September Qtr 1992 (5657.0; \$10.50)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., November 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)

The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, November 1992 (6271.0; \$65.00)

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., October 1992 (6312.0; \$11.00)

Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., November 1992 (6410.0; \$5.50)

Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., November 1992 (6415.0; \$10.50)

Agriculture

Shearing and Wool Production Forecast, Aust., 1992-93 (7211.0; \$10.50)

Value of Selected Agricultural Commodities Produced, Aust., 1991-92, Preliminary (7502.0; \$16.00)

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, October 1992 (7204.3; \$5.00)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Retail Trade, Aust., October 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)

Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, October 1992 (8504.0; \$10.50)

Building Activity, Aust.: Dwelling Unit Commencements, September Qtr 1992, Preliminary (8750.0; \$10.50)

A Tourist Accommodation Atlas of Qld, 1991 (8645.3; \$35.00) — *new issue*

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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(06) 252 6104

Calendar of key releases

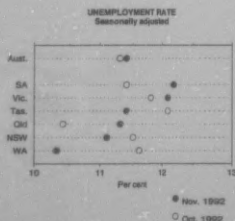
Expected releases over the fortnight to 29 December 1992

December

- 16** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, October 1992 (\$609.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, October 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, October 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
- 17** Export Price Index, Australia, October 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)
- 21** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, October 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
- 22** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, October 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
Import Price Index, Australia, October 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)
- 23** Manufacturing Production, Australia, November 1992 Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
- 24** Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, October 1992 Preliminary (9301.0 \$10.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
15 December 1992



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92)*	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (Oct. 92) (trend estimate)	2.4	2.9	7.4	-1.9	9.4	6.1	n.a.	5.6	4.0
New motor vehicle registrations (Oct. 92)†	-4.8	27.4	-18.1	4.4	-11.2	-6.0	21.1	-16.4	-0.3
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Oct. 92)*	15.2	8.0	7.5	13.1	50.5	6.3	-13.1	-22.2	16.2
Value of total building work done (June qtr 92)	-18.2	-7.1	6.2	-12.9	-5.8	19.5	-10.3	3.9	-8.8
Employed persons (Nov. 92)*	-2.1	-0.5	2.5	0.7	0.8	-0.2	-0.5	4.5	-0.2
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 92)	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Aug. 92)	2.6	3.8	2.5	5.8	2.2	2.6	5.0	5.1	3.2
Population (June 92)	1.2	1.0	2.4	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.2	2.3	1.4
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (June qtr 92)	6.9	4.8	6.4	2.9	3.1	0.7	3.8	21.2	5.9

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 15 December 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
National production							
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	June qtr 92	n.a.	65,000	0.6	1.6	
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 92	5,610	5,717	1.8	-11.1	
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,468	4,557	1.2	-9.0	
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to June 93	10,535	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Retail turnover — current prices	"	Oct. 92	8,254	8,095	2.0	4.3	
— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 92	15,153	15,673	-0.3	1.7	
New motor vehicle registrations (e)	no.	Oct. 92	44,453	43,505	-0.3	8.7	
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Oct. 92	14,392	13,950	5.5	16.2	
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	2,126	1,995	8.7	8.2	
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	June qtr 92	5,778	5,795	-0.4	-8.8	
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	7,754	7,765	-0.3	-6.8	
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	Sept. qtr 92	36,051	35,099	0.8	1.3	
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	24,649	24,034	-0.1	-0.2	
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to Dec. 92	40,787	n.a.	n.a.	11.5	
Labour							
Employed persons	'000	Nov. 92	7,655.6	7,636.1	-1.0	-0.2	
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.5	11.4	0.1	0.9	
Participation rate †	"	"	62.1	62.6	-0.6	-0.4	
Job vacancies	'000	Aug. 92	28.0	27.5	10.9	9.6	
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.07	1.11	0.9	0.0	
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index 1989-90 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 92	107.4	n.a.	0.1	0.8	
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries 1984-85 = 100.0		Sept. 92	127.2	n.a.	0.1	7.5	
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry 1988-89 = 100.0		Sept. 92	114.0	n.a.	0.4	2.6	
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Sept. qtr 92	4,153	4,077	25.6	37.0	
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Aug. 92	585.80	n.a.	-0.3	3.2	
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Oct. 92	5.85	n.a.	-0.10	-2.85	
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.85	n.a.	-0.10	-0.95	
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Oct. 92	4,832	4,683	-10.6	4.4	
Imports of merchandise	"	"	-5,347	-4,989	-4.2	20.3	
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-515	-306	n.a.	n.a.	
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-826	-516	n.a.	n.a.	
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-2,037	-1,800	18.9	99.1	
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 92	n.a.	98.5	-1.2	-5.7	
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 Sept. 92	162,841	n.a.	8.6	18.0	
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	209,173	n.a.	5.2	12.4	
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
US\$	per \$A	Oct. 92	0.7158	n.a.	-0.9	-9.8	
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	52.7	n.a.	0.0	-12.5	
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 92	17.5	n.a.	0.2	1.4	
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Sept. 92	190	218	2.8	-0.6	

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 17 December 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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